DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL SERVICES 78 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0078

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MEMORANDUM

- TO: Governor Paul R. LePage Members, Legislative Council Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs Members, Joint Standing Committee on Taxation
- **FROM:** H. Sawin Millett Jr., Commissioner Department of Administrative & Financial Services
- **DATE:** April 17, 2014
- **SUBJ:** Revenues March

March General Fund revenues were over budget by \$23 million or 12%. Year-to-date FY14 General Fund revenues are \$22.2 million over budget (+1.1%). Compared to the first threequarters of last fiscal year, revenues are up 3.1% (+\$59.6 million). Please note that the Controller's March revenue report reflects the March 1st revenue forecast update by the Revenue Forecasting Committee (RFC).

Sales & use tax receipts were over budget for the month by \$3.1 million. March revenues (February sales) appear to have rebounded from the weak holiday shopping season. Taxable sales were essentially flat for the three month period ending in February, but February sales increased by 5.2% year-over-year. Auto/transportation, restaurant, and lodging sales all increased by 5.5% or more. Overall consumer sales increased 4.2% in February, the strongest since October.

Individual income taxes were over budget in March by \$19.3 million. \$14.2 million of the monthly surplus was the result of weaker than projected refunds. The shortfall in refunds is most likely a combination of fewer than expected requests for the Property Tax Fairness Credit and stronger than projected income for the 2013 tax year. Withholding receipts were over budget for the month by \$3.2 million. Withholding should remain close to budget for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Sales & Use Taxes

Revenue was \$3.1 million over budget for the month and \$2.8 million (+0.4%) over budget fiscal year-to-date. Fiscal year-to-date revenue was \$75.7 million (+11.5%) over fiscal year 2013.

Taxable Sales

Total taxable sales for the month of February (March revenue) were up 5.2% from February 2013. The annual rate of change was 4.2%. Building supply sales were up 2.9% for the month and 6.8% for the year ending in February. Sales of taxable items in food stores were up 3.3% for the month and 2.1% for the year. General merchandise sales (primarily sales of goods sold in large department and discount stores) were up 1.5% for the month and 0.3% for the year. Sales in other retail stores such as jewelry, drug, sporting goods, book, antique, pet, photo, toy, and craft stores were up 4.9% for the month and 2.8% for the year. Auto/transportation sector sales were up 5.5% for the month and 7.9% for the year. Sales of meals and other prepared foods were up 5.9% for the month and 3.7% for the year. Lodging sales were up 7.9% for the month and 5.1% for the year. Business operating sales (primarily use tax paid by businesses) were up 12.6% for the month and 4.0% for the year.

Service Provider Tax

Revenue was \$89,185 under budget for the month and \$90,527 (-0.3%) under budget fiscal year-to-date.

Individual Income Tax

Revenue was \$19.3 million over budget for the month and \$19.3 million (+2.2%) over budget fiscal year-to-date. Fiscal year-to-date withholding payments were 0.7% under fiscal year 2013. Estimated payments were down 8.5% and final payments were up 7.0% fiscal year-to-date. Fiscal year-to-date revenue was \$64.4 million (-6.7%) under fiscal year 2013.

Corporate Income Tax

Revenue was \$3.1 million over budget for the month and \$3.2 million (+2.9%) over budget fiscal year-to-date. Estimated payments were up 3.4% and final payments were down 17.2% fiscal year-to-date. Fiscal year-to-date revenue was \$8.9 million (+8.5%) over fiscal year 2013.

Cigarette & Tobacco Taxes

Cigarette and tobacco products tax revenue was \$338,110 under budget for the month and \$261,640 (+0.3%) over budget fiscal year-to-date.

Insurance Companies Taxes

The Insurance Companies Taxes were \$305,220 over budget for the month and \$227,225 over budget fiscal year-to-date.

Estate Tax

The estate tax was \$132,450 under budget for the month and \$294,260 under budget fiscal year-to-date.

Transfers for Tax Relief Programs

Refunds for the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement (BETR) and Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE) were over budget in March by \$1.1 million. Year-to-date the tax relief programs are over budget by \$2.9 million (+4.7%).

Municipal Revenue Sharing

Revenue sharing was over budget in March by \$177,766 and for the fiscal year by \$165,014.

Lottery

Lottery Revenues were under budget for the month by \$0.4 million or 7.3%. Year-to-date lottery receipts are \$1.2 million under budget.

Other Revenues

Other Revenues were below budget for the month by \$.657 million. Year-to-date other revenues are on budget.

Highway Fund

Motor fuel tax receipts were over budget in March by \$2.2 million. The Highway Fund as a whole was over budget for the month by \$1.7 million. Fuel taxes are now \$4.4 million over budget for the fiscal year. Compared to the same nine month period last fiscal year motor fuel excise tax receipts are up 2.2%.

National Economy

March retail sales data provided strong evidence that consumer activity has increased and may increase further as winter weather fades away. Auto dealers in particular had solid sales in March. Nationally car sales were up 7.4% over last March, and on an annualized basis passed the 16 million mark for the first time since early fall. If income growth can improve with the strengthening employment market and energy prices stabilize, consumer spending will be even stronger over the remaining three quarters of 2014. Household spending along with a forecasted increase in business investment will push economic growth above 3% for rest of the calendar year, which will result in overall growth for 2014 of 3%.

Maine Economy

Surprisingly February taxable sales were very strong; up 5.2% compared to last February. A solid performance was reported by all the business sectors. Early indications are that March

sales were relatively weak, consistent with sales during and after the holiday season. Consumer spending is expected become stronger with the advent of spring.

HSM:mja

Attachments

cc: John McGough Jonathan Nass Grant Pennoyer Maureen Dawson Marc Cyr David Boulter Amanda Rector Jim Breece Jerome Gerard Melissa Gott Richard Rosen

Undedicated Revenues - General Fund For the Nine Month Ended March 31, 2014 For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014 Comparison to Budget

	Month								
	Actual	Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Actual	Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Total Budgeted Fiscal Year Ending 6-30-2014
Sales and Use Tax	72,786,213	69,719,336	3,066,877	4.4%	732,433,193	729,607,301	2,825,892	0.4%	1,108,677,783
Service Provider Tax	3,926,916	4,016,101	(89,185)	(2.2%)	32,266,835	32,357,362	(90,527)	(0.3%)	49,317,427
Individual Income Tax	57,322,877	37,982,431	19,340,446	50.9%	897,398,155	878,059,078	19,339,077	2.2%	1,380,685,000
Corporate Income Tax	25,493,604	22,344,731	3,148,873	14.1%	112,858,520	109,706,958	3,151,562	2.9%	169,706,958
Cigarette and Tobacco Tax	9,953,304	10,291,414	(338,110)	(3.3%)	101,388,711	101,127,071	261,640	0.3%	135,900,000
Insurance Companies Tax	15,335,725	15,030,505	305,220	2.0%	29,312,437	29,085,232	227,205	0.8%	80,715,000
Estate Tax	2,526,915	2,659,365	(132,450)	(5.0%)	14,110,756	14,405,016	(294,260)	(2.0%)	27,553,982
Fines, Forfeits & Penalties	2,597,814	1,997,968	599,846	30.0%	17,488,357	17,598,214	(109,857)	(0.6%)	23,468,666
Income from Investments	7,066	(6,642)	13,708	206.4%	186,928	173,881	13,047	7.5%	132,523
Transfer from Lottery Commission	4,767,258	5,144,240	(376,982)	(7.3%)	38,900,063	40,125,000	(1,224,937)	(3.1%)	53,500,000
Transfers for Tax Relief Programs	(2,205,531)	(1,114,633)	(1,090,898)	(97.9%)	(64,774,464)	(61,863,763)	(2,910,701)	(4.7%)	(62,258,370)
Transfer to Municipal Revenue Sharing	(1,503,213)	(1,325,447)	(177,766)	(13.4%)	(46,783,676)	(46,618,662)	(165,014)	(0.4%)	(64,904,675)
Other Taxes and Fees	19,071,362	19,698,268	(626,906)	(3.2%)	97,655,406	96,429,392	1,226,014	1.3%	128,459,912
Other Revenues	3,712,418	4,369,450	(657,032)	(15.0%)	16,387,087	16,401,050	(13,963)	(0.1%)	43,200,283
Total Collected	213,792,728	190,807,087	22,985,641	12.0%	1,978,828,308	1,956,593,130	22,235,178	1.1%	3,074,154,489

NOTES: (1) Included in the above is \$1,503,213 for the month and \$46,783,676 year-to-date, that was set aside for Revenue Sharing with cities and towns.

(2) Figures reflect estimates of the Maine State Revenue Forecasting Committee approved in March 2014.

(3) This report has been prepared from preliminary month end figures and is subject to change.

Undedicated Revenues - General Fund For the Nine Month Ended March 31, 2014 For the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2014 and 2013 Comparison to Prior Year

	Month				Year to Date					
	Current Year	Prior Year	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Current Year	Prior Year	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)		
Sales and Use Tax	72,786,213	61,952,890	10,833,323	17.5%	732,433,193	656,692,284	75,740,909	11.5%		
Service Provider Tax	3,926,916	3,802,513	124,404	3.3%	32,266,835	32,801,807	(534,972)	(1.6%)		
Individual Income Tax	57,322,877	61,089,049	(3,766,172)	(6.2%)	897,398,155	961,830,874	(64,432,719)	(6.7%)		
Corporate Income Tax	25,493,604	23,682,924	1,810,681	7.6%	112,858,520	103,979,645	8,878,875	8.5%		
Cigarette and Tobacco Tax	9,953,304	10,432,669	(479,365)	(4.6%)	101,388,711	102,309,864	(921,152)	(0.9%)		
Insurance Companies Tax	15,335,725	12,897,612	2,438,112	18.9%	29,312,437	28,350,837	961,600	3.4%		
Estate Tax	2,526,915	2,588,244	(61,329)	(2.4%)	14,110,756	36,330,220	(22,219,464)	(61.2%)		
Fines, Forfeits & Penalties	2,597,814	2,280,601	317,212	13.9%	17,488,357	17,719,122	(230,764)	(1.3%)		
Income from Investments	7,066	4,342	2,725	62.8%	186,928	94,296	92,633	98.2%		
Transfer from Lottery Commission	4,767,258	6,935,023	(2,167,765)	(31.3%)	38,900,063	39,227,135	(327,072)	(0.8%)		
Transfers for Tax Relief Programs	(2,205,531)	(2,210,396)	4,865	0.2%	(64,774,464)	(108,040,886)	43,266,422	40.0%		
Transfer to Municipal Revenue Sharing	(1,503,213)	(3,085,884)	1,582,671	51.3%	(46,783,676)	(67,407,806)	20,624,130	30.6%		
Other Taxes and Fees	19,071,362	16,156,813	2,914,549	18.0%	97,655,406	101,265,630	(3,610,224)	(3.6%)		
Other Revenues	3,712,418	3,289,567	422,851	12.9%	16,387,087	14,112,783	2,274,303	16.1%		
Total Collected	213,792,728	199,815,966	13,976,762	7.0%	1,978,828,308	1,919,265,805	59,562,503	3.1%		

Undedicated Revenues - General Fund For the Nine Month Ended March 31, 2014 For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014 Comparison to Budget

	Month								
	Actual	Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Actual	Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Total Budgeted Fiscal Year Ending 6-30-2014
Detail of Other Taxes & Fees									
0100s All Others	3,055,026	4,030,086	(975,060)	(24.2%)	21,598,391	21,608,845	(10,454)	(0.0%)	26,487,214
0300s Aeronautical Gas Tax	18,984	17,583	1,401	8.0%	200,462	194,328	6,134	3.2%	257,633
0400s Alcohol Excise Tax	1,286,029	1,481,979	(195,950)	(13.2%)	13,562,442	13,004,439	558,003	4.3%	17,464,997
0700s Corporation Taxes	1,263,247	1,308,800	(45,553)	(3.5%)	3,538,314	3,325,129	213,185	6.4%	8,313,649
0800s Public Utilities	8,015,674	8,000,000	15,674	0.2%	6,849,825	8,000,000	(1,150,175)	(14.4%)	8,000,000
1000s Banking Taxes	2,574,330	2,028,653	545,677	26.9%	20,659,880	19,265,942	1,393,938	7.2%	25,351,990
1100s Alcoholic Beverages	373,389	324,039	49,350	15.2%	3,814,185	3,827,403	(13,218)	(0.3%)	4,897,840
1200s Amusements Tax	-	-	-	_	-	-	-	-	-
1300s Harness Racing Pari-mutuel	664,438	746,660	(82,222)	(11.0%)	6,482,649	6,993,967	(511,318)	(7.3%)	9,233,964
1400s Business Taxes	716,547	539,546	177,001	32.8%	5,250,211	4,636,832	613,379	13.2%	7,528,842
1500s Motor Vehicle Licenses	345,985	334,296	11,689	3.5%	3,284,358	3,336,453	(52,095)	(1.6%)	4,411,202
1700s Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	724,489	863,693	(139,204)	(16.1%)	12,133,436	11,924,677	208,759	1.8%	16,101,822
1900s Other Licenses	33,223	22,933	10,290	44.9%	281,253	311,377	(30,124)	(9.7%)	410,759
Total Other Taxes & Fees	19,071,362	19,698,268	(626,906)	(3.2%)	97,655,406	96,429,392	1,226,014	1.3%	128,459,912
Detail of Other Revenues									
2200s Federal Revenues	34,852	29,502	5,350	18.1%	322,823	316,500	6,323	2.0%	405,000
2300s County Revenues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2400s Revenues from Cities and Towns	27,819	22,712	5,107	22.5%	187,633	204,408	(16,775)	(8.2%)	272,545
2500s Revenues from Private Sources	126,006	120,695	5,311	4.4%	1,253,306	1,230,274	23,032	1.9%	11,699,146
2600s Current Service Charges	1,735,078	2,116,960	(381,882)	(18.0%)	18,555,566	18,841,743	(286,177)	(1.5%)	24,652,668
2700s Transfers from Other Funds	1,781,840	2,067,342	(285,502)	(13.8%)	(4,014,423)	(4,258,687)	244,264	5.7%	6,046,424
2800s Sales of Property & Equipment	6,824	12,239	(5,415)	(44.2%)	82,183	66,812	15,371	23.0%	124,500
Total Other Revenues	3,712,418	4,369,450	(657,032)	(15.0%)	16,387,087	16,401,050	(13,963)	(0.1%)	43,200,283

NOTE: This report has been prepared from preliminary month end figures and is subject to change

Undedicated Revenues - General Fund For the Nine Month Ended March 31, 2014 For the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2014 and 2013 Comparison to Prior Year

		Mon	th		Year to Date					
	Current Year	Prior Year	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Current Year	Prior Year	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)		
Detail of Other Taxes & Fees										
0100s All Others	3,055,026	3,410,908	(355,882)	(10.4%)	21,598,391	19,155,123	2,443,267	12.8%		
0300s Aeronautical Gas Tax	18,984	17,692	1,292	7.3%	200,462	198,027	2,435	1.2%		
0400s Alcohol Excise Tax	1,286,029	1,631,692	(345,663)	(21.2%)	13,562,442	12,877,845	684,597	5.3%		
0700s Corporation Taxes	1,263,247	1,376,518	(113,271)	(8.2%)	3,538,314	3,450,090	88,224	2.6%		
0800s Public Utilities	8,015,674	20,423	7,995,251	39147.9%	6,849,825	(383,410)	7,233,236	1886.6%		
1000s Banking Taxes	2,574,330	2,397,200	177,130	7.4%	20,659,880	19,183,480	1,476,400	7.7%		
1100s Alcoholic Beverages	373,389	522,072	(148,683)	(28.5%)	3,814,185	3,735,472	78,713	2.1%		
1200s Amusements Tax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
1300s Harness Racing Pari-mutuel	664,438	1,107,092	(442,654)	(40.0%)	6,482,649	10,329,264	(3,846,615)	(37.2%)		
1400s Business Taxes	716,547	753,905	(37,357)	(5.0%)	5,250,211	6,602,119	(1,351,908)	(20.5%)		
1500s Motor Vehicle Licenses	345,985	344,911	1,075	0.3%	3,284,358	3,207,346	77,012	2.4%		
1700s Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	724,489	690,374	34,116	4.9%	12,133,436	11,728,547	404,889	3.5%		
1900s Other Licenses	33,223	3,884,028	(3,850,805)	(99.1%)	281,253	11,181,727	(10,900,475)	(97.5%)		
Total Other Taxes & Fees	19,071,362	16,156,813	2,914,549	18.0%	97,655,406	101,265,630	(3,610,224)	(3.6%)		
Detail of Other Revenues										
2200s Federal Revenues	34,852	40,466	(5,614)	(13.9%)	322,823	336,091	(13,268)	(3.9%)		
2300s County Revenues	-	-	_	-	-	-	-	-		
2400s Revenues from Cities and Towns	27,819	23,508	4,311	18.3%	187,633	166,752	20,881	12.5%		
2500s Revenues from Private Sources	126,006	152,715	(26,709)	(17.5%)	1,253,306	1,041,665	211,641	20.3%		
2600s Current Service Charges	1,735,078	1,796,249	(61,172)	(3.4%)	18,555,566	20,194,141	(1,638,575)	(8.1%)		
2700s Transfers from Other Funds	1,781,840	1,276,051	505,789	39.6%	(4,014,423)	(7,700,751)	3,686,328	47.9%		
2800s Sales of Property & Equipment	6,824	578	6,245	1080.2%	82,183	74,886	7,296	9.7%		
Total Other Revenues	3,712,418	3,289,567	422,851	12.9%	16,387,087	14,112,783	2,274,303	16.1%		

NOTE: This report has been prepared from preliminary month end figures and is subject to change

Undedicated Revenues - Highway Fund For the Nine Month Ended March 31, 2014 For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014 Comparison to Budget

		Mon	th						
	Actual	Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Actual	Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Total Budgeted Fiscal Year Ending 6-30-2014
Fuel Taxes	16,997,643	14,814,714	2,182,929	14.7%	145,898,780	141,490,491	4,408,289	3.1%	211,814,977
Motor Vehicle Registration & Fees	5,217,881	6,334,209	(1,116,328)	(17.6%)	61,151,897	60,882,737	269,160	0.4%	84,095,120
Motor Vehicle Inspection Fees	218,321	665	217,656	32730.2%	2,268,320	2,281,720	(13,400)	(0.6%)	2,982,500
Miscellaneous Taxes & Fees	102,760	73,841	28,919	39.2%	878,127	887,577	(9,450)	(1.1%)	1,298,729
Fines, Forfeits & Penalties	65,367	79,047	(13,680)	(17.3%)	731,502	753,573	(22,071)	(2.9%)	1,007,998
Earnings on Investments	6,750	2,039	4,711	231.1%	42,750	38,039	4,711	12.4%	52,553
All Other	838,003	490,467	347,536	70.9%	7,546,409	7,382,847	163,562	2.2%	9,015,334
Total Collected	23,446,725	21,794,982	1,651,743	7.6%	218,517,785	213,716,984	4,800,801	2.2%	310,267,211

NOTE: This report has been prepared from preliminary month end figures and is subject to change.

Undedicated Revenues - Highway Fund For the Nine Month Ended March 31, 2014 For the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2014 and 2013 Comparison to Prior Year

		Mont	h		Year to Date					
	Current Year	Prior Year	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Current Year	Prior Year	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)		
Fuel Taxes	16,997,643	15,297,217	1,700,427	11.1%	145,898,780	142,739,423	3,159,356	2.2%		
Motor Vehicle Registration & Fees	5,217,881	6,668,616	(1,450,735)	(21.8%)	61,151,897	65,586,864	(4,434,968)	(6.8%)		
Motor Vehicle Inspection Fees	218,321	-	218,321	-	2,268,320	2,275,648	(7,328)	(0.3%)		
Miscellaneous Taxes & Fees	102,760	66,927	35,834	53.5%	878,127	863,392	14,735	1.7%		
Fines, Forfeits & Penalties	65,367	86,045	(20,678)	(24.0%)	731,502	782,782	(51,280)	(6.6%)		
Earnings on Investments	6,750	8,056	(1,305)	(16.2%)	42,750	59,503	(16,753)	(28.2%)		
All Other	838,003	543,310	294,693	54.2%	7,546,409	7,085,782	460,628	6.5%		
Total Collected	23,446,725	22,670,169	776,556	3.4%	218,517,785	219,393,394	(875,609)	(0.4%)		

NOTE: This report has been prepared from preliminary month end figures and is subject to change.

	Feb. '14	% Ch.	Feb. '13	% Ch.	Feb.' 12	Average Last 3 Mos. Vs. Last Yr. % Change	Moving Total Last 12 Mos. Vs. Prior % Change	YTD Growth CY'14 vs. '13 Thru. Feb. % Change
Building Supply	\$109,125.0	2.9%	\$106,020.2	-8.4%	\$115,762.9	0.7%	6.8%	1.7%
Food Store	\$116,403.3	3.3%	\$112,716.3	-1.8%	\$114,802.8	3.6%	2.1%	3.9%
General Merchandise	\$195,691.4	1.5%	\$192,716.7	-8.3%	\$210,211.0	-3.6%	0.3%	-3.2%
Other Retail	\$129,213.8	4.9%	\$123,142.0	-3.3%	\$127,341.8	-1.3%	2.8%	1.3%
Auto/Transportation	\$272,915.3	5.5%	\$258,796.2	-4.2%	\$270,234.4	4.6%	7.9%	4.7%
Restaurant	\$135,209.8	5.9%	\$127,678.1	-6.5%	\$136,620.6	1.1%	3.7%	3.0%
Lodging	\$21,637.9	7.9%	\$20,050.8	5.2%	\$19,052.5	-11.4%	5.1%	9.0%
Consumer Sales	\$980,196.5	4.2%	\$941,120.3	-5.3%	\$994,026.0	0.5%	4.2%	2.1%
Business Operating	\$157,579.1	12.6%	\$139,912.2	3.6%	\$134,986.1	0.2%	4.0%	7.3%
Total	\$1,137,775.6	5.2%	\$1,081,032.5	-4.2%	\$1,129,012.1	0.4%	4.2%	2.8%